

351/NF/03

Abstract

The present invention relates to a process for preparing dioxy functionalised propane compounds using cobalt and/or rhodium catalysts. More particularly, the present invention relates to a process for the preparation of the dioxy functionalised propane compounds of the formula $X-CH_2-CH(Y)-CH_2-Z$, wherein $X = R-C(=O)-O-$ or H or $-OH$, Y and $Z = -H$ or $-OH$ or $-C(=O)H$, and wherein at a time, only one of X , Y and Z is $-H$, in high yields from vinyl carboxylates of formula $R-C(=O)-O-CH=CH_2$ wherein, $R =$ substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group.